

Gov. Beshear Honors Exemplary Volunteers

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Note to editors: Award category descriptions and summaries of winning nominations are available by calling Anya Weber at (502) 564-6786.

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 22, 2014) – Governor Steve Beshear today honored 14 groups and individuals from across the state for their volunteer and service contributions at a ceremony in Frankfort.

Gov. Beshear and Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) Deputy Secretary Eric Friedlander presented the Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service at the Governor's Mansion. The awards honored service completed in 2013.

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS), a division within CHFS, coordinates the annual awards program. The Governor's Office launched the volunteer awards program in 1975. Since 1995, the KCCVS has administered the program.

Gov. Beshear said the event was a chance to honor the state's leaders and innovators – volunteers and national service members – and the example they set for others.

"It's been said that a lot of people doing a little bit can make a big difference," he said. "You have shown that one person doing a lot, can cause a wave of change."

Deputy Secretary Friedlander congratulated the honorees and said the awards give focus to a group that doesn't seek out recognition for their service.

"You make such an impact on your communities with no expectation of reward," he said. "These awards give us a chance to thank you for unselfishly serving and filling needs that sometimes even government cannot."

A panel of independent judges with experience in volunteerism and/or service chose award recipients in 14 categories.

For the fourth year, a special First Lady's Award was included to honor a Kentuckian who has gone the extra mile to mentor youth to develop a strong foundation and prevent future dropouts, an effort that complements First Lady Jane Beshear's Graduate Kentucky initiative. This year, a Veteran Volunteer Service Award was added to recognize a veteran who has met a community need beyond his or her military service duties.

Ginny Ramsey, co-founder of Lexington's Catholic Action Center and Community Inn shelter, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Three additional achievement awards were also presented to honor groups for their participation during the state's Make A Difference Day food drives in October and January.

A list of award winners and their nominators follows.

Governor's Awards for Volunteerism and Service Recipients

- Ginny Ramsey, Lifetime Achievement Award, Lexington/Fayette County, nominated by Kelly Dycus
- Jody Keeley, Challenge Award, Verona/Boone County, nominated by Stephanie Sciamanna
- Humana Government Business, Corporate Award, Louisville/Jefferson County, nominated by Chief (Ret) Mark Grant
- Breaking Bread, Faith-Based Group Award, Madisonville/Hopkins County, nominated by Rick Welch
- Lynda Frazier, First Lady's Award, Lexington/Fayette County, nominated by Kamla Jones
- Union County Garden Coalition, Group Volunteer Service Award, Morganfield/Union County, nominated by Bradley T. Vowels
- Jason Schubert, Kentucky Ambassador Award, Lexington/Fayette County, nominated by Sarah Hermsmeier
- Bonnie Clark, National Service Award, Owensboro/Daviess County, nominated by Audra Stewart
- Bardstown At Home, Nonprofit Award, Bardstown/Nelson County, nominated by Vivian Fleenor
- Sheila Carroll, Senior Volunteer Service, Covington/Kenton County, nominated by Lindsay Hardebeck
- Sgt. Jerry Hall Jr., Veteran Volunteer Service Award, Leburn/Knott County, nominated by Ashley Hall
- Mark C. Dobbs, Volunteer Coordinator Award, Jeffersontown/Jefferson County, nominated by Marie M. Swanson
- Gary W. Jones, Volunteer Service Award, Versailles/Woodford County, nominated by Lisa C. Johnson
- Nathaniel Jarboe, Youth Volunteer Service Award, Rineyville/Hardin County, nominated by Lori Jarboe

Make A Difference Day Traveling Awards

- MSUCorps, AmeriCorps Program award (school based)
- Build Corps, AmeriCorps Program award (non-school based)
- Two Rivers Service Region, DCBS Region award

MSUCorps, an AmeriCorps school-based program, collected almost 12 tons of nonperishable food items. Their efforts allowed area food banks to feed almost 48,000 Kentuckians an 8-ounce serving. This is the third consecutive win for the MSU Corps. Mary Claire Williams is the program director for Morehead State University's MSUCorps AmeriCorps program.

Build Corps, an AmeriCorps non-school based program, collected more than 8 tons of nonperishable food items, allowing area food banks to feed more than 32,500 Kentuckians an 8-ounce serving. Kelly Dycus is the program director for Homeless and Housing Coalition's Build Corps AmeriCorps program.

The Two Rivers Service Region's 505 employees collected 3.19 tons of nonperishable food items, enabling food banks to feed 12,777 Kentuckians. Two Rivers Service Region won the award in both 2006 and 2007. Joey Minor is the Service Region Administrator. The region's food drive coordinators were Linda Craig, Patti Davidson, Kim Gumm and Ashley Richey. The Two Rivers Service Region includes Allen, Barren, Butler, Daviess, Edmonson, Hancock, Hart, Henderson, Logan, McLean, Metcalfe, Monroe, Ohio, Simpson, Union, Warren and Webster counties.

For more information about the awards program or the KCCVS, please visit www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

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The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state's human services and health care programs, including Medicaid, the Department for Community Based Services and the Department for Public Health. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full and part-time employees throughout the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.